

§ 1651.17

one or more of them refuses to cooperate in the Board's search for the missing beneficiary, the missing beneficiary's share will be considered abandoned. In such circumstances, the account can be reclaimed if the missing beneficiary is found at a later date. However, earnings will not be credited from the date the fund is abandoned. The beneficiary will be required to submit Form TSP-17 and may be required to submit proof of his or her identity and relationship to the participant.

§ 1651.17 Disclaimer of benefits.

(a) *Right to disclaim.* The beneficiary of a TSP account may disclaim his or her right to receive all or part of a TSP death benefit. If the disclaimant is a minor, the parent or guardian of the minor must sign the disclaimer.

(b) *Valid disclaimer.* The disclaimer must expressly state that the beneficiary is disclaiming his or her right to receive either all or a stated percentage of the death benefit payable from the TSP account of the named participant and must be:

- (1) Submitted in writing;
- (2) Signed by the person (or legal representative) disclaiming the benefit; and
- (3) Received before the TSP pays the death benefit.

(c) *Invalid disclaimer.* A disclaimer is invalid if it is revocable or directs to whom the disclaimed benefit should be paid.

(d) *Disclaimer effect.* The disclaimed share will be paid as though the beneficiary predeceased the participant, according to the rules set forth in § 1651.10.

[68 FR 35510, June 13, 2003]

§ 1651.18 Payment to one bars payment to another.

Payment made to a beneficiary(ies) in accordance with this part, based upon information received before payment, bars any claim by any other person.

5 CFR Ch. VI (1–1–04 Edition)

PART 1653—COURT ORDERS AND LEGAL PROCESSES AFFECTING THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNTS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8435, 8436(b), 8437(e)(3), 8467, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

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Subpart A—Retirement Benefits Court Orders

§ 1653.1 Definitions.

(a) Definitions generally applicable to the Thrift Savings Plan are set forth at 5 CFR 1690.1.

(b) As used in this subpart:

Court means any court of any State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands, and any Indian court as defined by 25 U.S.C. 1301(3).

Effective date of a court order means the date it was entered by the clerk of the court or, if the order does not show a date entered, the date it was filed by the clerk of the court or, if the order